

# How you can support reading and phonics at home

## Reading Together

- Teach lots of nursery rhymes – each one tells a different story.
- Enjoy and share books together – buy or borrow books that will fire their imagination and interest. Read and re-read those they love best.
- Make time to read with your child throughout their time in school – PLEASE continue reading to your child even when they are reading independently. This is very important – your child needs to practise their reading skills every day, and needs the support of an interested adult. A grandparent, older brother or sister can help.
- Let them see you reading – grown-ups can share their magazines about their favourite sport or hobby.
- Read with your child – ask your child to attempt unknown words using their phonics skills and knowledge. Make sure they blend all through the word.
- Talk about the meaning of the book too – take time to talk about what is happening in the book, or which things they found really interesting in an information book. Discuss the characters and important events. Ask them their views. Provide toys, puppets and dressing up clothes that will help them to act out stories.
- Explain the meaning of words (vocabulary) which your child can read but may not understand, e.g. *flapped*, *roared*.
- Listen to story tapes.
- Teach your child some action rhymes – ‘Heads, shoulders, knees and toes’, ‘Here we go round the mulberry bush’, ‘We all clap hands together’. Use tapes and CDs of nursery rhymes to sing along to.
- Read simple rhyming books together – leave out a rhyming word now and then, and see if your child can work out the missing word. If not, you say it.
- Borrow or buy the best books you can to share with your child. Libraries and book shops can advise you of the most popular books.
- Add sound effects when reading a story and encourage your child to join in.
- A quiet area with some cushions and toys is a comfortable place for you and your child to look at a book together.

## Writing Together

**Magic writing boards** are great fun for children – both little and larger versions. It won't be long before they will be trying to write their names!

**Write with your child** – ‘think aloud’ so they can hear the decisions you are making as you write. Make sure the writing is for a purpose, e.g. a birthday message, a shopping list, an address.

**Talk about the words they see in everyday life:** food packaging, signs in the supermarkets, captions on buses and lorries, messages on birthday cards and invitations.

**Write a shopping list together.**

**Send an email** to a family member or a friend – your child says the message, you write it!

**Provide your child with a shoe box full of things to write with** – writing tools of various sizes and thicknesses: gel pens, crayons, glitter pens, rainbow pencils, old birthday cards, coloured

paper, sticky tape to make little books. Rolls of wallpaper can be attached to a table or wall and provide a large canvas for their writing and drawing.

**Praise them for their play writing** – those early squiggles and marks show that your child is beginning to understand writing.

## What to do if your child is reluctant to read or write?

### *Relax!*

#### Reading

- Make sure your child sees you reading.
- Read to your child. Show you like the book. Bring stories to life by using loud/soft/scary voices – let yourself go!
- Spread books around your house for your child to dip into.
- Let your child choose what **they** would like to read – books, comics, catalogues.
- Read favourite books over and over again. Enjoy!

#### Writing

- Make sure your child sees you writing.
- Compose an email together inviting a friend over to tea.
- Continue to make words together using magnetic letters.
- Leave a message on the fridge door – encourage them to write a reply to you.
- Make up a story together about one of their toys. You write for them, repeating the sentences as you write. When complete they can draw pictures to go with it. Buy stickers of a favourite film or TV programme – and make a book about it.

#### Useful Websites

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

This website has lots of eBooks linked to the sounds your child will be learning at school, from Foundation Stage and throughout Key Stage 1.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

There is also a link to help you understand the Read Write Inc. phonics programme, which we currently follow.

[www.bookstart.co.uk](http://www.bookstart.co.uk)

This website provides information about the national Bookstart scheme and the Bookstart packs that your child will receive as a baby, a toddler and at age three to four. It also gives information about sharing books with your child and you can find out about Bookstart events in your area which you can go to with your child.

<https://www.early-education.org.uk/downloadable-resources?page=1>

This website has range of materials linked to Early Years education. Most of the things available are for members only, but there are a number of leaflets which are aimed at parents and which are free to download.

<http://mrthorne.com/>

This website provides lots of videos to support the development of phonics.

<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/3-5/milestones>

The words for life website offers a range of information and activities linked to literacy. It lets you know the kinds of things your child may be doing at various ages including 4 year olds. It also has tips for preparing to start school.

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/school-reception-class/learning-and-development-progress/>

This website covers children from birth to school and is aimed at professionals and parents.